

(Washington, DC) Today, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) introduced a resolution recognizing the important role zoos, aquariums, and other wildlife organizations have played in the response efforts in the Gulf region following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
(Please see attached a copy of the resolution).

“Even in difficult economic times, zoos, aquariums, and other wildlife institutions have provided valuable staff and resources for rescue and rehabilitation efforts in the Gulf region,” said Hastings. “These organizations deserve praise and thanks for their dedication and selfless contributions.”

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have identified zoos and aquariums as important partners in the rescue and rehabilitation efforts of the wildlife impacted by the oil spill. Many of these institutions already have in place established programs for animal rescue and rehabilitation as well as the resources needed to address short-term and long-term impacts of the oil spill on animals and habitats in the Gulf of Mexico region.

“The unique expertise of the professionals at zoos and aquariums is invaluable to responding to environmental disasters like that in the Gulf,” said Hastings. “Additionally, their contributions to conservation programs, science education, and community development deserve our continued support and appreciation.”

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1924 which is dedicated to advancing the work of zoos and aquariums in the areas of conservation, education, science, and recreation. There are over 200 AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums which are found in 46 states, where they support more than 126,000 jobs and attract 180 million visitors annually.

“I am proud to have the Palm Beach Zoo, an AZA-accredited institution, in my district,” further noted Hastings. “The Palm Beach Zoo actively promotes conservation and education programs, including the incorporation of Species Survival Plans and Population Management Plans through the AZA.”

Joining Hastings as original co-sponsor of this resolution are Representatives Spencer Bachus (AL-06), Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA-02), Anh “Joseph” Cao (LA-02), Kathy Castor (FL-11), Susan A. Davis (CA-53), Theodore E. Deutch (FL-19), John Lewis (GA-05), Daniel Lipinski (IL-03) and Bill Posey (FL-15).

Congressman Alcee L. Hastings is Vice Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, a senior member of the House Rules Committee, and Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

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 [Zoo and Aquarium Resolution.pdf](#)